

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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O R 041100 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1187

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN DANANG

AMCONGEN NHA TRANG

AMCONGEN BIEN HOA

AMCONGEN CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 7845

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT FOR

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 4.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I ICCS: CANDEL CHIEF IN CAN THO SAYS HE WILL RECOMMEND CANADA WITHDRAW FROM ICCS; DUC CO MAY BE EVACUATED MAY 5; BEN HET EVACUATION MAY FOLLOW; HELICOPTER PARTS SCHEDULED FOR RETURN TO QUANG TRI MAY 5.

PART II TPJMC: TWO (RATHER MINOR) AGREEMENTS; RVN DEL DESCRIBES CIVILIAN DETAINEE IMPASSE.

PART III RVN/ PRG BILATERALS: NINTH SESSION ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING.

PART IV GVN ACCUSES COMMUNISTS OF 12,877 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS.

PART V MR-1: LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY.

PART VI MR-2: LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY; PRG ATTEMPTS AT ACCOMMODATION IN PHU YEN REBUFFED BY RVN.

PART VII MR-3: LOW LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY.

PART VIII MR-4: MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAIN SHARPLY UP; BA XUYEN VILLAGE RAVAGED; RESENTMENT AGAINST RVN RESETTLEMENT PLANS IN VINH LONG.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. MANFRED VON NOSTITZ, CANADIAN DELEGATE TO ICCS REGION VII, (CAN THO) CALLED AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL MAY 2 TO REVIEW THE POST CEASE-FIRE SITUATION IN MR-4. VON NOSTITZ REPORTED THAT HIS SAIGON HEADQUARTERS HAD ASKED HE COMMENT ON THE ADVISABILITY OF CANADA CONTINUING IN THE ICCS. VON NOSTITZ NOTED THAT HE HAD SUPPORTED CANADA' S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN HIS LAST ASSESSMENT AND HAD ARGUED FOR CANADIAN PARTICIPATION WITH EXSTAFF MINISTER SHARP DURING SHARP' S VISIT. HE WOULD NOW, HOWEVER, RECOMMEND AGAINST CANADA CONTINUING.

2. IN SUPPORT OF HIS ARGUMENT AGAINST CANADA' S FURTHER PARTICIPATION, VON NOSTITZ POINTED OUT THAT THE TPJMC IS DEAD. HE SAW NO SIGN
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OF THE PRG PARTICIPATING AT REGIONAL LEVEL AND FELT THE CONTINUING PRG ABSENCE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCES THE EFFECT OF THE ICCS. SECOND, VON NOSTITZ SAID THAT WHILE THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE WORK OF THE ICCS MORE ACTIVELY SINCE X PLUS 60, THEY HAD USED THEIR PARTICIPATION NEGATIVELY-- CHALLENGING OR SLOWING INVESTIGATIONS. THEY SHOW NO DESIRE TO

PIN RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PRG. WHILE THE PARIS AGREEMENT DOES NOT SAY ICCS PARTICIPANTS MUST BE IMPARTIAL, THE COMMISSION CANNOT BE EFFECTIVE IF AT LEAST TWO NATIONS INSIST ON PROTECTING ONE OF THE CONTESTING PARTIES.

3. CONGEN NHA TRANG REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO SOURCES AT ICCS REGION 3 HQ IN PLEIKU, THE PRG ELEMENT OF THE CENTRAL TPJMC HAS NOW AUTHORIZED REMOVAL OF THE ENTIRE ICCS ENTRY- POINT TEAM AT DUC CO. ACTUAL REMOVAL IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE MAY 5, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE DATE OF THE NEXT REGULAR RESUPPLY MISSION TO THAT SITE. SAME SOURCES (WHO MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY CURRENT WITH PROCEEDINGS IN SAIGON PLENARIES) ALSO TOLD PLEIKU POLOFF THEY UNDERSTAND EXTRACTING OF ENTIRE RPT ENTIRE BEN HET TEAM NOW AUTHORIZED BY CENTRAL ICCS, THOUGH PROBABLY NOT BY PRG ELEMENT OF TPJMC. REASON IS SUPPOSEDLY HEALTH, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN FEW IF ANY REPORTS OF ILLNESS AT BEN HET AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES FOR ICCS THERE ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN AT DUC CO. THIS REPORT WOULD SEEM TO CONFLICT WITH EARLIER SAIGON INFORMATION THAT ONLY INDONESIANS WANTED TO LEAVE BEN HET. (SAIGON 7546, MAY 1 SITREP.)

4. CANDEL SAIGON CONFIRMS THAT PRG HAS GIVEN AUTHORIZATION FOR EVACUATION OF DUC CO AND THAT IT SHOULD TAKE PLACE ON MAY 5. REGARDING BEN HET AND AN LOC, CANDEL STATES MILITARY COMMITTEE REPORT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY MAY 5 PLENARY. CANDEL STATES THREE DELEGATIONS ARE FOR WITHDRAWAL WITH A MINORITY OF ONE, CANADA, FOR STAYING.

5. ACCORDING TO CONGEN NHA TRANG, ALL FOUR ELEMENTS OF BAO LOC ICCS SUB- REGIONAL TEAM MADE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIVE TRIP MAY 3 TO SCENE OF AN APRIL 22 INCIDENT IN WHICH AN RF TROOPER WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED BY A B-40 ROUND RIGGED AS A BOOBY- TRAP. HUNGDEL AND CANDEL BOTH TOLD POLOFF AFTERWARDS THAT TRIP HAD GONE SMOOTHLY. TEAM WILL MEET TODAY TO WRITE ITS REPORT.

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6. CANDEL SAIGON STATES THAT PARTS RECOVERY TEAM AND ICCS REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOW IN GIO LINH. TRANSFER OF HELICOPTER 115 PARTS BY ROAD AND HELILIFT ACROSS THACH HAN SHOULD TAKE PLACE MAY 5.

7. CONGEN DANANG REPORTS THAT PARTS RECOVERY TEAM, WHICH HAD INTENDED ONLY TO RETRIEVE THE MORE VALUABLE PARTS OF NO. 115, WAS TOLD BY THE PRG AT THE CRASH SITE THAT THEY MUST TAKE
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O R 041100 Z MAY 73

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - P A R A V I S U B P A R A 3

PART III: RVN/ PRG BILATERALS

1. THE NINTH RVN/ PRG BILATERAL SESSION WAS HELD AT LA CELLE- ST.
CLOUD, NEAR PARIS, MAY 3. USDEL JEC PARIS REPORTS THE NINETY-
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MINUTE PLENARY CONSISTED EXCLUSIVELY OF EACH SIDE' S ATTEMPTS TO
DISCREDIT THE OTHER' S PLAN OF APRIL 25 WHILE UPHOLDING ITS OWN
PROPOSALS. NEITHER SIDE INTRODUCED ANY MODIFICATIONS OF ITS
RESPECTIVE POSITIONS; NEITHER WAS WILLING TO ENGAGE IN
DISCUSSION OF THE OTHER' S TERMS. IT WAS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN

MAY 9.

2. THE POST- SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES WERE EQUALLY UNCONSTRUCTIVE, WITH THE GVN EMPHASIZING ALLEGED DRV PREPARATIONS FOR A GENERAL OFFENSIVE IN SVN, AND THE PRG MAKING REPEATED CRITICAL MENTION OF THE US. THE PRG PRESS SPOKESMAN DENIED THAT SECRET TALKS HAD TAKEN PLACE, WHILE THE GVN MADE NO RESPONSE TO THE SAME QUESTION. CONCERNING KISSINGER- THO TALKS, THE PRG ECHOED THACH' S REMARKS MAY 1 THAT CONDITIONS ARE INAUSPICIOUS FOR THEM. (SEE USDEL JEC PARIS 12185 (NOTAL) FOR FULL REPORT.)

ART IV: RVN CHARGES COMMUNISTS WITH 12,877 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS PM MAY 4, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMITTED A TOTAL OF 12,877 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THROUGH 0600 MAY 4. THE GVN CLAIMS 18,719 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS KILLED AND 209 CAPTURED. DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THE GVN ACKNOWLEDGES LOSSES OF 4,552 KILLED, 22,338 WOUNDED, AND 1,213 MISSING. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN 754 CIVILIANS KILLED, 2,113 WOUNDED, AND 1,119 ABDUCTED BY THE COMMUNISTS.

PART V: MR 1

1. INCIDENT LEVEL THROUGHOUT MR 1 REMAINED UNCHANGED AT 20. NO GROUND ATTACKS WERE REPORTED. THERE WERE 15 ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE TOTTALLING 325 MORTAR ROUNDS, OVER HALF IN THE 1 ST DIVISION AO.

2. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE TWO RF BATTALIONS ON THE QUANG TRI FRONTLINE, AREA DIRECTOR HUE LEARNED THAT THE VC/ NVA IS PRESSING A LOUDSPEAKER PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THESE RF TROOPS. THE COMMUNIST THEME IS THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE SOLDIERS ARE LIVING NORTH OF THE LINE AND ARE WAITING FOR THEIR LOVED ONES TO JOIN THEM. BROADCASTS INCLUDE SPECIFIC NAMES OF SOME RF OFFICERS AND NEN GIVEN TO THE COMMUNISTS BY
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A RECENT DEFECTOR. BOTH COLONEL HA MAI VIET, THE QUANG TRI PROVINCE CHIEF, AND BG BUI THE LAN, THE MARINE COMMANDER WITH OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THESE UNITS, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THIS PROBLEM IN ALL FIVE OF THE RB BATTALIONS ON THIS SECTION OF THE FRONT. BG LAN INTENDS TO TRANSFER THESE UNITS TO THE REAR.

3. MAJOR TRAN NGOC TAN, SON TINH DISTRICT CHIEF, REPORTED TO AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI THAT HIS TERRITORIAL FORCES IN EASTERN SON TINH ARE NOT NOW CAPABLE OF HOLDING THE LOWER BATANGAN PENINSULA OR PROTECTING RETURN TO VILLAGE SITES THERE WITHOUT THE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT OF THE 6 TH ARVN REGIMENT. ONE SIGNIFICANT REASON IS DETERIORATED MORALE, PARTICULARLY IN THE

117 TH RF BATTALION OPERATING ON HILL 21. TO SHORE UP THEIR
MORALE, PROVINCE OFFICIALS HAVE SENT A LETTER OF COMMENDATION AND
\$ VN 10,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE TROOPS OF THE 117 TH.
AN ADDITIONAL RF COMPANY HAS ALSO BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE HILL.
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O R 041100 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1189
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
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2. MORALE AT THE ICCS SUB- REGION SITE AT AN LOC REMAINS
RELATIVELY HIGH IN SPITE OF THEIR ENFORCED ISOLATION. DURING
A VISIT THERE YESTERDAY (MAU 3) A CG POLOFF WAS TOLD THAT AT
LEAST THE CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS AT THE SITE
WOULD PREFER TO STAY. THEY BELIEVE THEIR PRESENCE IN AN LOC
HAS HAD A DAMPENING EFFECT ON FIGHTING IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA.
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THEY ARE INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED, HOWEVER, BY CONTINUING WRANGLING IN SAIGON WHICH HAS PREVENTED ANY ICCS HELICOPTER FROM REACHING AN LOC IN THREE WEEKS, ALTHOUGH PA& E CONTINUES TO BRING UP SUPPLIES ON BOARD JMC CHOPPERS.

PART VIII: MR 4

1. MILITARY ACTION IN MR 4 INCREASED DRAMATICALLY MAY 3 WITH 85 INCIDENTS REPORTED, EVEN COMPARED TO THE RELATIVE HIGH OF 64 THE PREVIOUS DAY. ARVN REPORTED TEN GROUND ATTACKS, 55 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 16 HARASSMENTS, AND FOUR TERRORIST INCIDENTS, INCLUDING TWO BRIDGES BLOWN. CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE SUFFERED THE MOST INCIDENTS, 35, AND KIEN PHONG REPORTED 18. RVNAF LOSSES INCLUDED 23 KILLED, 15 WIA, AND ONE MISSING. MR IV CLAIMED 56 VC/ NVA DEAD.

2. THE BLOODIEST GROUND ATTACK OCCURRED IN GIA HOA VILLAGE, THANH TRI DISTRICT, BA XUYEN PROVINCE. A VC UNIT, REPORTEDLY THE PHU LOI BATTALION, FELL UPON THE VILLAGE IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MAY 3, OVERRAN AND RAVAGED IT, AND DEPARTED BEFORE DAWN. THEY REPORTEDLY LEFT BEHIND 26 DEAD, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND 43 WOUNDED. NO VC LOSSES WERE REPORTED. THE VILLAGE OFFICE AND SEVERAL HOUSES WERE BURNED. THE KILLING DID NOT END WITH THE VC'S DEPARTURE. VILLAGE OFFICIALS PILED INTO A JEEP SEEKING SUCCOR FOR THANH TRI. ENROUTE THE JEEP DROVE OVER A MINE. FIVE OFFICIALS WERE KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED. THE KHANH HUNG ICCS TEAM DEPARTED TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT AT 0900 HOURS MAY 4.

3. CONGEN CAN THO COMMENT: GIA HOA VILLAGE SINCE APRIL 10 HAS RECEIVED SPECIAL GVN ATTENTION. A 450- MAN RF BATTALION OCCUPIED A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED (#)

OPERATIONS WERE UNDERTAKEN (CAN THO A-43). THE VC ATTACK PROBABLY IS IN RESPONSE TO THESE RECENT RVNAF OPERATIONS.

4. THE ICCS VINH LONG SUB- REGION TEAM INVESTIGATED BLOWN BRIDGE ON MAY 1. THE IMPORTANT BRIDGE, ON ROUTE 7 OVER THE MANG THIT RIVER, HAD BEEN BLASTED EARLIER IN THE DAY (SAIGON 7546, MAY 1 SITREP). ALL FOUR ICCS PARTIES ATTENDED THE INVESTIGATION AND SOLEMNLY
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CONCLUDED THAT YES, A BRIDGE INDEED HAD BEEN BLOWN- UP. HOWEVER, EXPLAINED THE POLISH INTERPRETER TO AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL, SINCE THE GUARD ON THE BRIDGE FAILED TO SEE THE SAPPERS, NO BLAME COULD

BE FIXED. HE ADDED, LAUGHING, THATWHOEVER DID THE DEED " WERE PROFESSIONALS." TRAFFIC IS REPORTEDLY MOVING OVER THE RIVER BY A FERRY OPERATED BY ARVN ENGINEERS.

5. THE TRUC GIANG ICCS TEAM IS INVESTIGATING THE APRIL 29 ASSASSINATION OF AN ARVN ARTILLERY CAPTAIN AND HIS FAMILY. THE OFFICER, HIS WIFE, AND TWO CHILDREN WERE MURDERED WHEN PERSONS MASQUERADING AS SOLDIERS STOPPED THEIR JEEP, THREW A GRENADE INSIDE AND RIDDLED IT WITH AK-47 FIRE. THE ICCS HAS NOT YET FILED A REPORT.

6. A POLOFF (#)
USED TO IMPLEMENT GVN RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS HAVE CAUSED BITTER RESENTMENT AMONG SOME VILLAGERS AND COMPLAINTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE COUNCIL. THE CHIEF OF TRUNG THIEN VILLAGE, VUNG LIEM DISTRICT, TOLD HIS PEOPLE TO MOVE TO A GVN- CONTROLLED AREA. MOST DID, SOME DEMURRED. GOVERNMENT TROOPS REPORTEDLY BURNED THE HOMES AND RICE OF THE DISSIDENTS. IN HIEU THANH VILLAGE IN THE SAME DISTRICT, LOCAL POLICE CONFISCATED THE RICE OF VILLAGERS WHO ATTEMPTED TO MOVE BACK TO THEIR OLD HOMES AND THREATENED TO SELL IT IF THEY DID NOT REMAIN IN THE RESETTLED AREA.

7. PEOPLE IN TICH LOC HAMLET IN VINH LONG' S TRA ON DISTRICT FEEL THEY ARE BEING UPROTTED AND FORCED TO ESETTLE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT SUPPORT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY. THE HAMLET IS LOYAL TO THE MILDLY- OPPOSITIONIST PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM). LAST NOVEMBER, THE GVN CONSOLIDATED VARIOUS OUTPOSTS, REDUCING THE AREA ITS FORCES PATROL. THE VC MOVE MORE FREELY NOW, AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS HAVE ORDERED THE FAMILIES IN THE HAMLET TO MOVE TO A RESETTLEMENT AREA. PHM LEADERS SAY THE HAMLET IS ACCUSED OF COMMUNIST SYMPATHIES BECAUSE NO ONE WOULD JOIN THE DEMOCRACY PARTY. THE HAMLET' S COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN PASSED BOTH TO PNM MEMBERS OF THE VINH LONG PROVINCE COUNCIL AND TO SOME LOWER HOUSE DEPUTIES.

8. CONGEN CAN THO COMMENT: THE TICH LOC COMPLAINTS WILL AGGREGATE THE ALEADY STRAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PNM
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AND VINH LONG PROVINCE CHIEF, TRAN VAN THI. PNM MEMBERS RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED PUBLICLY AGAINST THI' S OPEN HOSTILITY TO THEIR PARTY (CAN THO A-59).
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NOTE BY OC/ T: SAIGON 7845 (SEC 3 OF 3) (#) OMISSIONS IN PARA 3, LINE 3 AND PARA 6 LINE 1. CORRECTIONS TO FOLLOW.

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MANILA

OTTAWA
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